

THE AFFECTS OF ENGLISH MISPRONUNCIATION PROBLEM BY JAPANESE SINGERS

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Abstrak

Bahasa Inggris adalah bahasa yang mendunia, tidak hanya digunakan oleh penutur asli namun juga digunakan oleh penutur dari berbagai bahasa dan negara. Seperti pada penyanyi dari Jepang yang menggunakan bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa pilihan untuk bernyanyi dan menulis lirik lagu selain bahasa Jepang. Karena setiap bahasa mempunyai ketentuan dan ciri masing-masing kesulitan pengucapan akan ditemui oleh bukan penutur bahasa Inggris yang asli, meskipun penyanyi tersebut mempunyai pengalaman tertentu berkaitan dengan bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini menganalisis pengaruh dari bahasa pertama yaitu bahasa Jepang terhadap bahasa kedua yaitu bahasa Inggris dengan aksan Amerika melalui perbandingan dalam peraturan fonologi. Menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Pada hasil temuan, faktor pengalaman ke luar negeri lebih banyak dengan jangka waktu yang lebih sering tidak menjadikan hal tersebut pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap ukuran kemampuan penyanyi Jepang melafalkan bahasa Inggris. Menurut Kenworthy (1988) bahasa asli, motivasi dan perhatian dalam pelafalan yang baik serta sikap dan identitas mampu memberikan pengaruh yang lebih signifikan. Sebagai tambahan, intensitas penggunaan bahasa Inggris juga merupakan faktor yang memberikan kontribusi. Ini juga menjawab sebab fenomena ketidak konsistenan dalam pengucapan seperti yang dilakukan oleh penyanyi A.

Kata kunci: *English pronunciation, factors, dan Japanese singer.*

Abstract

English is universal, not only used by the native speakers but also by the speakers of different languages from different countries, such as the Japanese singers who use English as the optional language to sing and make song lyrics. Since every language has its own characteristics, pronunciation problem may come out for the non-native speakers although the singers have certain experience. The data collection was done by collecting and analyzing each sound. This study analyzed the English pronunciation influenced by the background factors of Japanese singers. This study conducted in descriptive qualitative as method of research. The findings from this research show that instead of the experience to go abroad frequently, the factor proposed by Kenworthy (1988) native language, motivation and concern of good pronunciation, attitude and identity give more significant effect in pronunciation skill improvement. In addition, intensity of using English as another factor was found gives more contribution in pronunciation ability of Japanese singers because answered the phenomena of inconsistency which done by the singer A as well.

Keywords: *English pronunciation, factors, and Japanese singer.*

INTRODUCTION

In using a spoken language, pronunciation is an important skill. Pronunciation is the way a sound is produced in particular language. Each language has its own characteristics. Since English is universal, it is used by people with different language around the world such as the Japanese. English for Japanese people is either used as subject to be learnt or nowadays it is confidently used in many aspects. For instances in their daily communication, in business, making a brand, also in case of Japanese singers who are using English in order to

express themselves globally through the lyrics of the songs.

In singing, the Japanese singers deal with lyrics, it means pronunciation as major attention. Japanese has its own orthography and mora-time in case of syllable structure, so it leads the differentiation of phonological system from English. Therefore, it is possible for them encounter a difficult. Under the term of phonetics which is the study of how sounds are produced, transmitted, and perceived, speech sound can be symbolized. It helps in comparison between the proper pronunciation and mispronunciation in real presentation.

This study used Japanese singers that can be predicted the purpose of using English is for communication related to the profession, rather than education or learning. Each singer is apparently different in their English proficiency. If someone has chance going abroad frequently and surrounding by people who use English they should be better in using English especially pronunciation. In this case, the vocalist of popular Japanese band called Taka is native Japanese, he contacts with English earlier when he was kid by living in country of English-speaker for certain times. In his adulthood the opportunity to go abroad and surrounded by English speaker is bigger due to his profession. However, when trying to listen all his songs there still problem in his English pronunciation which can be assumed as inconsistency.

This study used General American (GA) English which uninfluenced by the specific various dialects in the areas of United States to be compared with Japanese Language. From that explanation, this study interests to analyze the factors that affect in their English pronunciation using theory by Kenworthy (1988). By giving comparison of some words from the song lyrics which identified that the singers do inconsistency and relate it to the background.

METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative. Focused on the singer A's (Taka) pronunciation ability considering his background as explained before. Beside compared to himself, it also compared to the pronunciation and background of the selected other singers. The data source of this research was taken from the song lyrics of singer A. The data of this research was the speech sound of the word which recognized as mispronunciation also the document and related source of the singers' background were used to help finding of the factor that influence in pronunciation problem.

In this study, the instrument was the researcher. Beside, *Cambridge* dictionary was used in order to transcribe the words into phonetic. In order to analyze the data for this study, there were several steps. The first step was examining the data by listening to the songs. In order to find the mispronunciation words. The second step was transcribing the data into phonetics symbol to get in detail the sound which articulates by the singers. The third step, identifying the phonemes or speech sounds which recognized as inconsistent to produce by the singer A. The last, Analyzing the factor that influence of pronunciation ability through background and pronunciation comparison of Japanese singers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the theories that proposed by Kenworthy, all the factors happened in each background of the singers, but there are 3 factors which dominantly give influence in the ability of English pronunciation. The factors that have less contribution in Japanese singers' ability of English pronunciation are age factor, phonetic ability and amount of exposure.

For the first dominant language is native language. It is the basic reason factor because Japanese and English are different regarding to the pronunciation rules. Therefore, native language somehow becomes the interference which can identify the origin of person when the foreign accent occurs in second language pronunciation. From all the data that have analyzed, the Japanese singers foreign accent which mostly recognized while pronounce English song lyrics is accent of phoneme /r/ or /l/. The effort to do substitution in their native language is the way to accustomed with the new language.

For the motivation and concern of good pronunciation factor can be seen as the individual reason which the impact is really depending on the subject itself. For example, in order to achieve the global market, singer A motivates himself to understand and use English as good as possible regarding the matter of profession. Meanwhile the other singers have no certain motivation to use English except for singer C who attended International school in Japan. It means for singer C, English is frequently used since international school have big portion to use English, even as the main language to communicate in the area of the school. This academic motivation is used by second singer to acquire English although she doesn't have any particular experience like living in an English speaking country.

Singer A did inconsistency when pronouncing a word but have different pronunciation. For example, in [i:] sound, In [ə] sound and In [r] sound

No	Data	GA English Pronunciation	Singer A Pronunciation	Singer B Pronunciation
1	Keep	/ki:p/	/ke:p/	/ki:p/

Table. 1 Pronunciation of [i:] sound by Singer A and Singer B

In the case of the same word, it has found that the Data1 is sung two times within a song in different stanza by Singer A. First, the singer pronounces 'keep' in the sentence 'keep it up' in correct way likewise GA English pronunciation, the other is he fails to pronounce [i:] in sentence 'keep moving on'.

No	Data	GA English Pronunciation	Singer A Pronunciation	Singer B Pronunciation
2	A time	/ə 'taɪm/	/a 'taɪm/	/a: 'taɪm/
3	A new	/ə nju:/	/a nju:/	/a nju:/
4	Again	/ə.'gen/	/o.'gen/	/o.'gen/

Table. 2 Pronunciation of [ə] sound by Singer A and Singer B

In the case of 'A' as determiner, it is found that in the other songs the singer A pronounced the sound correctly as well as the word 'again'. Likewise the word 'again', in the other song the singer A face no difficulty to pronounce it just like in GA English pronunciation.

No	Data	GA English Pronunciation	Singer A Pronunciation	Singer C Pronunciation
5	Wherever	/wer'evər/	/wel'evər/	/wer'evər/
6	Allright	/ɔ:l 'raɪt/	/ɔ:l 'laɪt/	/ɔ:l 'raɪt/
7	Brighter	/braɪ.tər/	/blai.tər/	/braɪ.tər/

Table. 3 Pronunciation of [r] sound by Singer A and Singer C

In the word 'brighter' the [r] sound in the end of the word but the singer successfully produced it or seems the singer delete it vaguely even completely. In the other songs, singer A mostly cannot produce the sound well-pronounced. Meanwhile singer C correctly produced as in data 5 and 6.

For the Attitude and Identity factor, positive feeling happens here either first singer or the second singer even though in different portion. They are learning and try to pronounce English as good as possible. Since become singer or band, the possibility to be seen by people around the world is big, so in order to grab attention they have to pronounce correctly. This factor works together along with factor before.

In addition, it is found that there is another important factor that is the intensity of using English. Because intensity give highlight that time of using English, means how frequent the singer use English not only in singing but also speaking gives real impact to the pronunciation ability. The problem of inconsistency which happened to the singer A is caused by the application of intensity. The singer frequent to go abroad but then the using of Japanese is more frequent than English.

CONCLUSION

The result shows only three factors are considered giving more contribution in influencing pronunciation ability of English in Japanese singers (1) Native language because it is the basic reason for the phonological differentiation, (2) attitude and identity, also (3) motivation and concern for good pronunciation work together along. Positive feeling may have relation with the possibility to be seen by people around the world, because being a singer or band is achieving popularity and can be accepted by the hearer. The more they perform, the more requirement of Japanese singers having good English pronunciation since people start to judge or give their responses. If singers have positive feeling and intend to learn in depth whether the motivation reason is vary such as the matter of profession to be a popular singer or band which have chance to communicate with the hearer or education; they will concern to study English intensively.

Because of vowel and consonant, specifically the phonetics differentiation, it can be predicted that Japanese singers who have not acquired English language fully will always face difficulty in pronunciation or do inconsistency. Moreover, the singers who have mastered English sometimes can be interference by their first language indeed. In the end, it is not only the factor that Kenworthy proposed, in this case, the intensity of using English is more significant to develop English pronunciation skill supported by the well understanding of second language rather than the other factors specifically the amount of exposure.

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